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LETTER DATED 26 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, and with reference to paragraph 2 of the letter dated 5 August 1996 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations (S/1996/627), I have the honour to inform you of the following.

The United Arab Emirates protests against the allegation in the above paragraph according to which the airspace over Abu Musa island belongs to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

My Government rejects this allegation, which it considers a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over Abu Musa island, as one of the persistent measures which the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken and continues to take with respect to the island, in violation of the memorandum of agreement concluded in November 1971, with a view to dominating the island and annexing it by force.

The United Arab Emirates categorically rejects any infringement of its sovereignty over Abu Musa island and reaffirms that it is fully disposed to settle the question of the three islands (the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa) through peaceful means, including recourse to the International Court of Justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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